

The index of specialization for the area is also shown in Table 6. This index illustrates a relationship between employment sources statewide in 1960 and that of the Maiden and surrounding Newton Township (exclusive of the Town of Newton). The index is determined by dividing the percentage for each major source of employment in the township area by the percentage of this same type of employment for the state as a whole. Therefore, an index of more than 1.0 indicates that local area was more specialized in a particular industry in 1960 than the state; less than 1.0 indicates less specialization than the state in a particular industry. Such specialization is not necessarily "bad", but it does give some indication that diversification may be advisable within the employment sources for the community. This diversification would allow the community to suffer less than if, for example, it depended entirely on textiles for employment and the textile industry were to experience a slump on a state or national level. Simply stated, the index of specialization points out any tendency by the community to "put all its eggs in one basket."

Specialization of employment was evident in 1960 for the Maiden (Newton Township) area primarily in the classifications of (1) furniture, lumber and wood products, (2) textile and apparel products, (3) transportation equipment, and (4) the overall category of manufacturing. This is, of course, no surprise in view of the presence of the local furniture and textile industries that are regionally and even nationally known. This points out, however, that in any efforts to recruit new industry and other types of business there is an opportunity to improve the local employment balance by actively seeking employment sources other than those in which a trend toward specialization already exists.